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Uhh ... home sweet home?

Canada's largest, most technologically-advanced correctional facility officially opens in Edmonton PAGE 3

First World problems

Cyprus may face bankruptcy after unpopular levy is voted down. Elsewhere, Lululemon is recalling pants! PAGE 6

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

SPRING BREAKERS STAR ASHLEY BENSON SAYS IT'S OK IF YOU'RE DISTURBED BY THIS FILM — AS LONG AS YOU FEEL SOMETHING, "THAT'S GREAT" PAGE 12

POPE GREETS PILGRIMS

Pope Francis gives a thumbs-up to the faithful as he arrives for his inauguration mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Tuesday. The pontiff urged princes, presidents, sheiks and thousands of ordinary people gathered for the outdoor event to protect the environment, the weakest and the poorest, mapping out a clear focus of his priorities as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

ANGELO CARCONI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reject teacher deal: Edmonton public board

Split decision. Catholic board favours deal for labour peace

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

The Edmonton Public School Board is recommending provincial school boards reject the province's deal with Alberta teachers.

The board unanimously approved making that recommendation to the Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA), while at the same time Edmonton Catholic Schools is recommending acceptance of the deal.

Public board chair Sarah Hoffman said the deal, which they estimate will cost between $12.5 and $18.5 million, is too costly for the school board to implement. While the province is pledging to cover salary increases, Hoffman said there will be other costs the board can't afford, especially in light of the tight budget handed down earlier this month.

"With the proposed budget and with the proposed contract we are facing there is no way that we can continue to offer the same level of service without it impacting students," she said.

Hoffman said the deal cut boards out of the process and she believes local decisions should be made by local leaders.

"We have been elected by Edmontonians to represent them on a local level, we have a long history over a century of making local decisions," she said.

Catholic School board chair Becky Kallal said they were supporting the proposed deal, because it brings stability.

"We feel that labour peace really serves our students, our parents, our staff really well," she said.

She said the budget will force hard decisions, but that is unrelated to the teacher's contract.

"We do not believe that this tentative agreement is going to add cost pressure, because this agreement is fully funded, certainly the budget itself is going to have ramifications for all districts, including ours, but that is a different issue."

The ASBA is set to formulate its position on the deal later this week. Education minister Jeff Johnson was not available for comment following the board's comments.

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1 NEWS

Budget

City ended 2012 with a surplus

The city appears to have ended 2012 $18.6 million in the black.

Chief financial officer Lorna Rosen said while it is good to have it on the positive side, it is fairly small in the context of the city's $2-billion budget.

"It is pretty tight when you consider how big our budget is."

The city is recommending putting about half of the windfall on small projects and putting the rest into a reserve account. The city's stabilization reserve is below the ideal level, but above the minimum the city allows.

Rosen said the city would like to have more in its reserve accounts, but has to balance that with priorities.

Council will consider the surplus on Wednesday.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Wreckage

Three-vehicle crash kills one

One person was killed and another was critically injured in a three-vehicle crash Tuesday afternoon on 16 Ave. N.W., according to Calgary police.

The crash happened shortly after 4 p.m. in the westbound lanes near Crowchild Trail, police said, trapping two people inside the wreckage.

Police shut down 16 Ave. in both directions from 29 St. to 19 St. N.W. and major traffic delays were expected.

Anyone with information is asked to call 403-266-1234.

METRO

Smaller lots. Council approves changes for denser neighbourhoods

Edmonton approved smaller lots in mature areas and other steps designed toward creating denser neighbourhoods, but many believe the city is not going far enough.

Mayor Stephen Mandel said the changes should help address some of the hollowing out in mature neighbourhoods that has lead to school closures as young families move out.

He said ultimately the city would have to do more to address the needs of young people who aren't as interested in the suburban homes their parents purchased.

"The younger generation isn't interested in 5,000-square-foot homes, they are looking at affordability and more practicality."

Infill lot developer Tegan Martin-Drysdale said the changes would move the city in the right direction.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Warning. Police caution southwest residents after string of break-ins

Residents in southwest Edmonton are being warned to properly secure their homes and garages, following a string of residential break-and-enters in the Parkallen neighbourhood.

Police on Tuesday said they have received an increase in reported break-and-enters on the south side, and more specifically within recent weeks in the Parkallen neighbourhood. The break-ins are occurring primarily during the day when residents are away from their homes, police said.

"There have been a variety of methods used by the person(s) responsible, and investigators have few descriptions or details to work with," Det. Cal Mah said in the release.

Residents are warned to be wary of any suspicious activity, and also report it to the police by calling 780-423-4567 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. METRO

Remand Centre to house nearly 2,000 inmates

Correctional facility. Site of $580-million centre is the size of almost 27 football fields

The largest and most technologically-advanced correctional facility of its kind in Canada was officially opened in Edmonton on Tuesday after six years of construction.

The new Remand Centre is a 60,000-square-metre maximum-security facility that will house up to 1,952 inmates.

"This is one of the largest construction projects this province has ever undertaken to date," Minister of Infrastructure Wayne Drysdale said at the building's grand opening.

Nearly 1,400 prisoners will be transferred from the old Remand Centre to the new facility next month.

Male prisoners will receive new orange jumpsuits while females will wear navy blue sweatsuits.

Inmates will be housed in self-contained pods that have a secure fresh air exercise room and common area.

The new building boasts technological advancements including video visiting capacity so prisoners can converse with loved ones and a court appearance system so they can attend court via video link.

"It's safer and it also saves taxpayer dollars," said Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Jonathan Denis of the onsite video court facilities.

The $580-million facility is located at 18415 127 St. and replaces the 33-year-old Remand Centre in downtown Edmonton.

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Minister of Infrastructure Wayne Drysdale, left, deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk and Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Jonathan Denis officially open the new Edmonton Remand Centre on Tuesday. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

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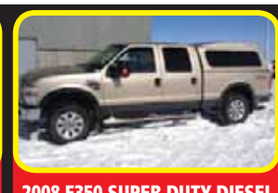

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Magnotta collapses in courtroom

Hearing postponed. Alleged killer fell after watching disturbing video evidence in case

Luka Rocco Magnotta collapsed to the courtroom floor after seeing video evidence presented against him, forcing a postponement in his preliminary hearing Tuesday.

Magnotta appeared distraught as the video played. When it was over, the suspect in a killing-and-dismemberment case asked for a break. He stood up and fell on his side, crumpling into a fetal position.

The evidence in the gruesome case is subject to a publication ban. It could be made public if the case goes to trial.

Magnotta was not back in court when the afternoon session began at 2 p.m.

"He really doesn't feel well and he's not able to continue," his lawyer, Luc Leclair, said.

Judge Lori-Renee Weitzman said they could not continue without Magnotta present. She ordered the case suspended until Wednesday.

During the morning segment, Magnotta had held his hand over his mouth, as if he felt ill. Even the judge appeared to be affected by the evidence. She winced slightly at one point in the video. Some police investigators looked away.

Magnotta is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of 33-year-old student Jun Lin. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luka Rocco Magnotta in court. MIKE MCLAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He's no Canadian, but we'll say hello nonetheless

Pope Francis meets Gov. Gen. David Johnston and his wife, Sharon, after his installation mass on Tuesday. L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manitoba. Mennonites sought parenting advice before assault charges laid

Leaders of an orthodox Mennonite community in Manitoba reached out for counselling and parenting advice before two members were charged with beating children with various weapons, including a whip and cattle prod.

Enos Bauman, 54, and his son Cleason Bauman, 29, face various counts of assault and assault with a weapon. Cleason is also charged with assault causing bodily harm.

Court documents show the alleged offences involve seven children, boys and girls, dating back to July 2011.

The pair was arrested last week and released on bail under conditions that include avoiding the community.

Neither police nor the documents on file with the court have disclosed a motive.

A spokesman with the Mennonite Centre Committee of Manitoba said Monday that leaders of the group came to Winnipeg last month to talk about "parenting concerns." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget. Flaherty zeros in on three big priorities

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is signalling he'll make skills training, fixing up crumbling infrastructure and helping the manufacturing sector the key priorities in Thursday's budget.

In a letter to his caucus colleagues, the minister cautions that the economy is fragile and faces strong competition.

Government ministers have long identified a mismatch between jobs that are in demand and skills being churned out by universities, colleges and training programs.

"There are too many jobs that go unfilled in Canada because employers can't find workers with the right skills," he writes in the letter.

Flaherty is also committing to "do more" on infrastructure. With stimulus construction projects finished and the $8.8-billion Building Canada Fund soon to expire, he is expected to extend the program.

And he is expected to renew the accelerated capital cost allowance, first introduced in 2007, that allows manufacturing firms a quicker writeoff for investments in machinery and equipment, thereby lowering their tax bill. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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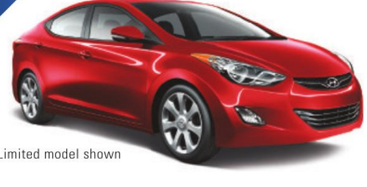

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Low-cost laptops

Chromebook comes to Canada

Google is continuing its march into the hardware business with a brand of cheap laptops designed for using the web — and not much else. On Tuesday, the Internet giant announced its Chromebook concept was finally available in Canada, more than a year after being released in the U.S. and other countries.

Chromebooks look like standard laptops but don't come loaded with a version of Windows or a Mac operating system. They run on Google's Chrome OS, a streamlined platform with the web browser as the main attraction. They're being pushed as a low-cost device — they start at about $250 — for users who spend most of their time on a computer using the Internet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Natural gas: $3.96 US (+8¢)
Dow Jones: 14,455.82 (+3.76)

Cyprus votes down levy on bank deposits

EU financial crisis. While protesters cheer move by Parliament, international bailout is now left in disarray

Cypriot lawmakers have rejected a critical draft bill that would have seized part of people's bank deposits in order to qualify for a vital international bailout.

The bill, which had been amended Tuesday morning to shield small deposit holders from the deposit tax, was rejected with 36 votes against, 19 abstentions and zero votes in favour. One deputy was absent.

Hundreds of protesters outside Parliament cheered in jubilation and sang the national anthem when they heard the bill had not passed. Cyprus will now have to come up with an alternative plan to raise the money.

If it doesn't, it won't qualify for external rescue loans, the country's banks face collapse and the country could go bankrupt.

The plan to seize bank deposits was part of a larger bailout package being negotiated with other European countries. It was met with fury in Cyprus and sent jitters across financial markets. Had the bill passed, banks in Cyprus had planned to stay shut until Thursday to prevent a bank run.

Although Cyprus is the smallest eurozone country to be bailed out, the proposal marked the first time savers' bank accounts were to be directly targeted. Other bailed out countries such as Greece, Ireland and Portugal have raised funds by imposing new taxes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sheer oversight. Lululemon recalling black pants that reveal too much yoga butt

Shares in Lululemon Athletica Inc. closed down $1.76 to $65.74 on the Toronto Stock Exchange Tuesday, after the clothing maker recalled some of its black yoga pants because they were too see-through and warned the move would hurt sales.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Howard Tubin noted it was the second product-related issue the company has had this year.

"Combine this with the problems they had with red and pink garments earlier this year and bears could start to weave a narrative that Lululemon is consistently encountering execution issues while growing," Tubin wrote in a note to investors, referring to problems with bleeding in some of Lululemon's coloured clothing.

The retailer pulled its popular black Luon yoga pants from store shelves because the material used to make them was too sheer, showing off too much of their customers' assets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman carries a purchase out of the Lululemon store in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The budget: call it manufactured scarcity.

Alberta is the wealthiest province in Canada. Our economy is booming. Our businesses are hiring. Yet our government is broke. What's going on?

The government lives off oil and gas revenues so it can give big tax breaks to the wealthy and incentives to big corporations—like it has for the past 30 years. So when the price of oil drops, it unloads operating costs on ordinary Albertans. Sometimes it sells off public services so we don't get services—unless we pay extra. Compared to people in other provinces, we pay more.

In other words, the government isn't really broke. It's just keeps tightening the belt on us—to give the wealthy a bigger slice of the pie.

The Alberta Liberal Opposition is working to break this resource cycle with a new 30-year "Greenprint for the Future". But first we want to hear from you.

Send us *your* ideas. Contact Raj Sherman, Laurie Blakeman, David Swann, Darshan Kang and Kent Hehr at: *liberal.correspondence@assembly.ab.ca*

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THUMBS DOWN — STOP TEXTING

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

I think we're texting ourselves to death.

I was reading a story by a relationship therapist who claimed that Canadians text eight billion messages a month.

The point was something like: "How can anyone have a relationship when there's all that texting going on?"

That seemed like a lot to me, so I went to the Internet and did some research. No matter how you slice it, the guy's right. We do a terrific — or is that terrible — amount of texting.

According to one source, we send 227 million text messages a day or 10 million an hour. Another says Canadians send 2,500 messages a second for a total of 78 billion a year. While we're throwing around numbers, that comes to about 10 a day per subscriber.

In the U.S., according to the Pew Internet & American Life Project, the average user sends 40 messages a day, but young Americans 18-24 send or receive 109.5 messages a day.

It's easy to conclude we're all thumbs.

These numbers correspond to my anecdotal survey: nine times out of 10, wherever I go, everyone else is looking down. I'm the only one looking up.

I've tried to pretend to look down and be like everyone else, but my heart's not really in it. I have to admit I'm tired of texting, tired of tweeting, tired of email, tired of not talking to other people.

Other people are actually pretty interesting, but only if you can get them while they're not texting. They're also not very interesting if their fingers creep toward their smartphone (41 per cent of Canadians say they keep their cellphone in reach at all times), nor are they interesting when they try to talk to you and text at the same time (18 per cent; at least they're trying).

It starts to get interesting when they try to drive and text at the same time, but not in a good way. An editor at Car and Driver found that it took longer to stop when he was texting than when he was legally drunk — an extra 70 feet, which is enough to drive you straight into the nearest tree.

So here I am texting you, and here you are reading this text. Whoops.

I hope you find this text interesting. I hope it encourages you to put away your smartphone and look up.

Perhaps you're not driving into the back end of the car in front of you at this very moment. Bonus. That means it's not too late to put the phone away and start relating to other people, like your spouse, parents, friends, colleagues, perfect strangers. It doesn't matter. They've been so busy texting, none of them will recognize you anyway.

Start small. Smile. Remember? That's something you do with your face, not your thumbs.

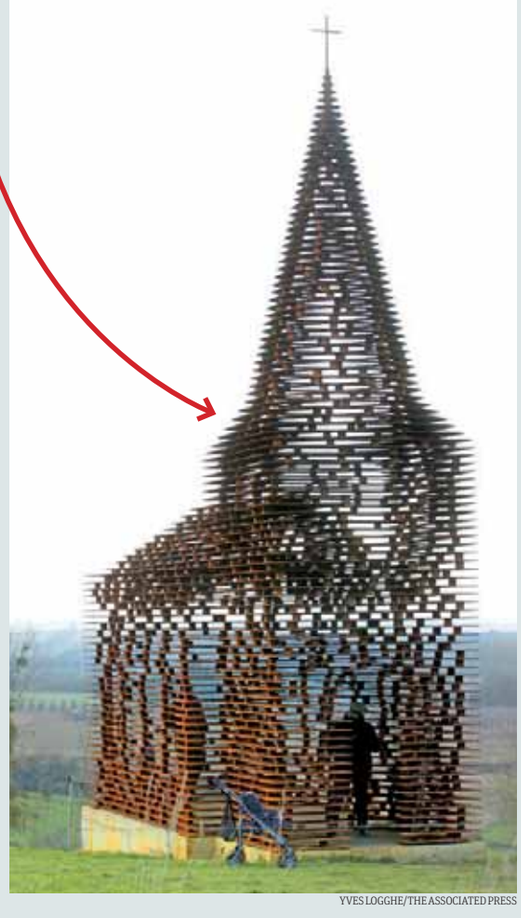
ZOOM

Hole-y, what a church

Empty building a sign of the times

A see-through church stands on a hilltop in Borgloon, 80 kilometres east of Brussels, Belgium.

The artistic vision of the church is made of rusty steel beams separated by gaps, and its austere beauty won it an international architecture prize. Yet the eerie desolation of the see-through installation has also turned into a reflection on the state of Roman Catholicism on a religion-weary continent where real churches, like the dozen dotting the hills of this verdant area, increasingly lose their flock and function. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interest across Europe crumbles like a wafer

Across large swaths of Europe, empty pews and empty pulpits are the stark reality of centuries-old churches in a continent where, not so long ago, the village spire was the main point of reference for society.

Pope Francis faces a daunting array of challenges, and one of them is bringing souls back to the historic heartland of the Catholic Church. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For example

- For signs of this decline, look no further than Paris, at the famed Notre Dame Cathedral.
- On Pope Francis' installation day, thousands of tourists easily outnumbered less than 200 worshippers in the pews, even as the ceremony on St. Peter's Square was televised inside.
- Many churches have been turned into restaurants and shops, or even demolished, often given a new function in society never intended by those who originally built them.

Lean structure wins award

This disappearing act gave Pieterjan Gijs, of the Gijs Van Vaerenbergh architecture firm, ideas.

The Borgloon art installation's layered structure allows visitors to see right through it, and this evanescence gives it a double layer of beauty and philosophical depth. It won the 2012 prize for best religious building by the website Arch Daily. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Oh, sure, you'd love to come up with a blog idea so irresistible that smirking Photoshoppers can't help but flood your inbox with submissions. But how to get that precise mixture of clever yet simple?

Well, all you need is an hour in a quiet room with a list of magazine titles and a rhyming dictionary. It works like a charm.

Just ask whoever came up with Thumbs & Ammo, where guns are swapped with a cheery thumbs up and "real tough guys don't need guns, they just need a positive, can-do attitude."

thumbsandammo.blogspot.com

AMC

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Lululemon halted sales of black yoga pants for being too sheer. What clothing would you like to never be sold again?

@JennBarker82: Crocs - every colour every style!

@MEdingerReMax: acid bleached jeans, bell bottoms, corsets, and rugby pants

@Ketchum_All: Anything Ed Hardy..

@alangdon17: crocs, horrible horrible.

@bandrews14: suit jackets with shoulder pads. Who ever thought that shoulder pads was a good idea, or belonged outside of hockey or football

@DariaTuhtar: Cheap flip flops. I don't want to see your disgusting foot-shaped grime and sweat stains.

@CatBourque: clothing that droops below butt cheeks....

@duizerbarbie: was at Forever 21—acid wash jean shirt!–some things from the 80's should never come back

@Gnarlli: they WHAT?

@PengoMommy: Leggings with prints that are in stores right now. Unless you are under 12 or a stick you can't get away with it.

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Tina Fey's latest project has her starring alongside Paul Rudd in the movie Admission. HANDOUT

Fey's decade of comic clout

New movie. From SNL to a best-selling book to hit movies and a sitcom, the female comedian continues to break new ground

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Tina Fey regularly appears on the Forbes' annual Celebrity 100 list of the most powerful celebrities. She's made the Entertainment Weekly roll call of Entertainers of the Year and Time called her one of the most influential people in the world. Did I mention she's also really funny?

For nine years on Saturday Night Live she worked behind the scenes — as the show's first female head writer — and on camera as the anchor of Weekend Update.

"She might be the best Weekend Update anchor who ever did it," said Dennis Miller. "She writes the funniest jokes"

Then came 30 Rock, the medium-rated but critically adored sitcom, a best selling book and a celebrated impersonation of Sarah Palin that even got the thumbs up from the ex-Governor.

This weekend she's on the big screen in Admission, a comedy co-starring Paul Rudd. She plays a Princeton admissions officer who thinks one of her new recruits is the son she gave up for adoption years ago.

Fey made her film debut a decade ago in the quirky comedy Martin & Orloff as part of an ensemble cast that included SNLers Amy Poehler and Rachel Dratch.

That movie didn't garner much attention, and her role of Southern Woman even less, but in 2004 she shortened the unwieldy title Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughters Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends, and Other Realities of Adolescence to Mean Girls. The story of high school in-groups was a hit and launched the careers of Rachel McAdams and Amanda Seyfried.

A comedienne

"She might be the best Weekend Update anchor who ever did it. She writes the funniest jokes."

Dennis Miller
Talking about Tina Fey.

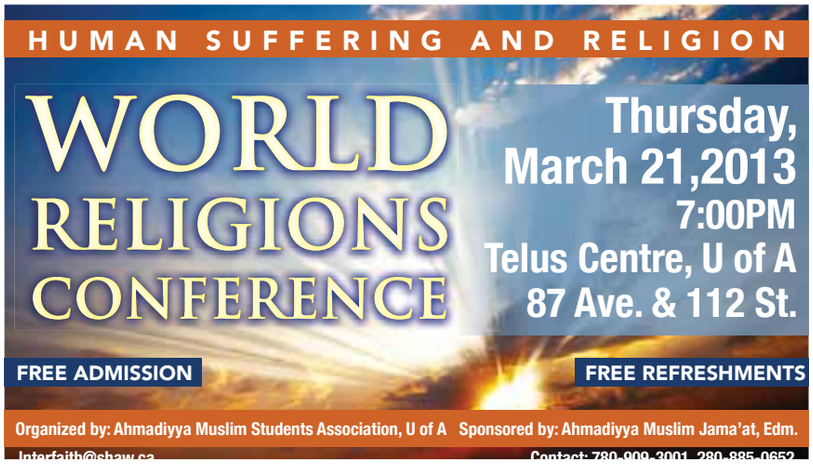
She co-starred in Mean Girls as math teacher Ms. Norbury and made on-screen appearances as Front Desk Girl in Beer League but got her name over the title in Baby Mama.

She played Kate, a single 37-year-old businesswoman so desperate to have a baby she hires Angie, an inappropriate South Philly wild child (Amy Poehler) to be her surrogate.

Next was the stranded-in-big-bad-New-York-City movie Date Night opposite Steve Carell.

The movie wouldn't be as enjoyable as it is without the two leads. Fey and Carell breathe life into a hackneyed situation, bringing not only likeability, but also great chemistry and a way with a line that really works.

In the animated Megamind she voiced intrepid girl reporter Roxanne Ritchi, kidnapped by the master of all villainy Megamind (voice of Will Ferrell) and next year she stars with Ricky Gervais in The Muppets … again.



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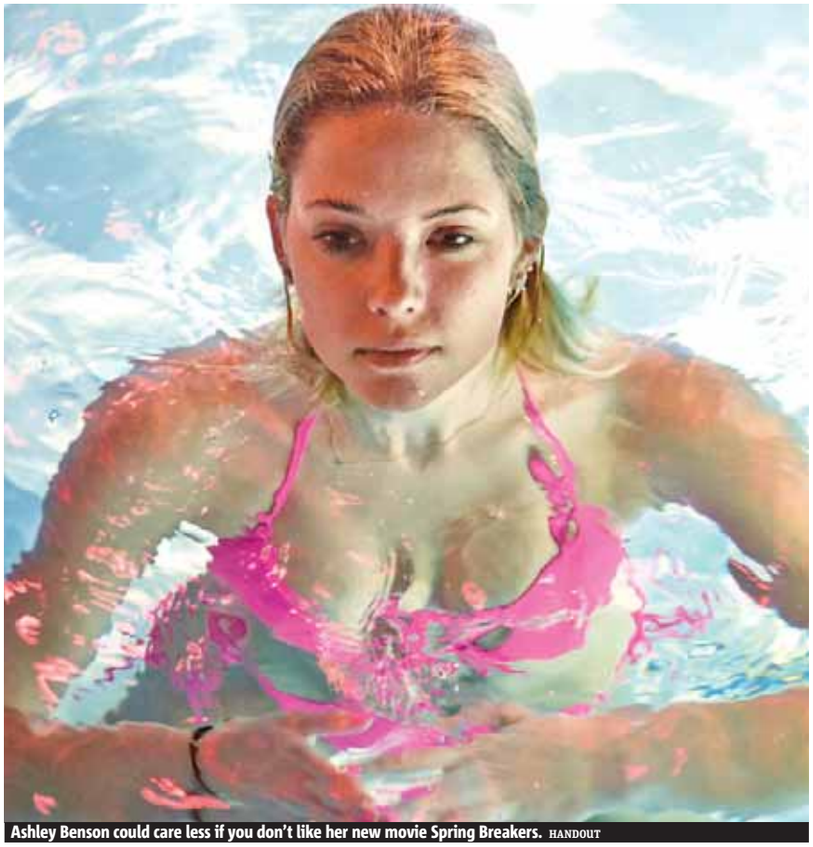

Ashley Benson could care less if you don't like her new movie Spring Breakers. HANDOUT

Hate Spring Breakers? Movie star doesn't care

Interview. Ashley Benson unfazed by backlash to Disney stars kicking it up a notch in party flick

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Ashley Benson, the Pretty Little Liars star, makes the jump to film in the most attention-grabbing way she can: alongside Selena Gomez and Vanessa Hudgens as coeds gone bad in Harmony Korine's Spring Breakers. The film finds the girls' characters knocking over a diner to fund a wild week in Florida, ending up in jail and bedding down with a crazed, gun-toting, drug-slinging amateur rapper named Alien (James Franco). And you know what? Benson likes that you may hate this movie.

Whose movie is it anyway?

"That's what made the movie so brilliant, because half the things were made up on the spot two minutes before we shot."

Ashley Benson
Talking about shooting Spring Breakers.

There's a lot of noise surrounding it, about the content and the Disney backgrounds of your co-stars. When you're at the centre of this kind of storm, how do you deal with it?
I don't really listen to it. Harmony just wanted people to be left with a feeling, and if they're horrified, that's amazing, if they loved it, that's even better. So I like when people hate the movie because it's like, wow we really affected you and you're really disturbed, and that's great.

"Just pretend it's a video game" stands out as a particularly telling line of dialogue.
Well, that wasn't actually in the script. The script was more descriptive and very visual, very little dialogue. (Korine) said to pick out three scenes from the movie (for the audition), and each scene maybe had two lines. It was more of just visually what people looked like, what the girls were wearing, that they would dance, that they would play with guns, that they would have this love scene with Alien. And that's what made the movie so brilliant, because half the things were made up on the spot two minutes before we shot or it was improvised.

This is a great way to start a film career. Where do you go from here, movie-wise?
I think I want to do another one like this. I want to work with a director who's kind of like Harmony.

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Cyndi Lauper has written her first musical, Kinky Boots, with a team of Tony award winners. GETTY IMAGES

Lauper just wants to have fun as a Broadway composer

Kinky Boots. Grammy award winner prepares to open her stage show, which is based on an obscure 2005 British film

Writing her first musical turned into a time machine for Cyndi Lauper.

As the Grammy Award winner began work on the exuberant Kinky Boots, it took her back to her childhood, where she was likely to be found listening endlessly to cast albums on a record player.

There was There's No Business Like Show Business and My Fair Lady. And South Pacific, of course. She remembers her grandmother coming downstairs and ripping The King and I off the player after one too many spins.

"My mother said I was a little odd as a kid," says Lauper, 59. "I was alone a lot but I didn't feel alone. When I sang with those records, I'd be Julie Andrews and there was Rex Harrison sitting on my mother's bed. I was Mitzi Gaynor. I was Ezio Pinza. I think she had Mary Martin, too — I was all of them. I was pretty good until they sang duets."

Sitting backstage at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre, waiting to catch another preview of her 15-song debut as a Broadway lyricist and composer, Lauper is both nervous and humble. The little girl who listened compulsively to show tunes has now delivered her own.

"It's the closest thing to being five," she says.

Kinky Boots, which opens April 4, is based on an obscure 2005 British film about a British shoe factory on the brink of ruin that retrofits itself into a maker of fetishistic footwear for drag queens.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Great team

The musical version has a reworked story by Harvey Fierstein

- **Behind the scenes.** It is directed and choreographed by Jerry Mitchell, with music supervised by Stephen Oremus. All three are Tony Award winners.

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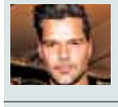
Sofia Vergara ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Vergara freezing her eggs

Sofia Vergara takes planning for the future very, very seriously. "I have to be careful what I eat because they're freezing my eggs," the 40-year-old Modern Family star tells Vogue, adding that she's currently taking hormone pills. "After that it is hormone injections. They want to get as many good eggs as they can because usually you produce them but they're not good. They have to be perfect, perfect, perfect ones. My boyfriend is 37, younger than me, never had kids. So."

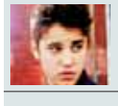
Twitter



@ricky_martin
sometimes you just have to stop thinking so much and simply go with your heart. PERIOD. Have an awesome day every1!

@RealMichelleT
I'm off to slay some dragons

@MarkDuplass
I kinda miss walking around the video store in a state of utter confusion.



@justinbieber
good night Paris. je t'aime

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Who is the father of Michael Jackson's children?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

For years, I've gazed upon the children of Michael Jackson and wondered: "Are they really his kids?" What trips me up is that they kind of look like him, but only after he underwent his radical plastic surgery.

But then I remember that if he were still alive and "unadulterated," Jackson should look a lot more like Tito and a lot less like LaToya. I guess what I'm trying to clumsily say is that even with a white mother, Blanket, Paris and Prince should look more like a young Michael and a lot less like the crypt keeper he became. Also, holy cats: What a crazy family.

Anyway, it's looking more and more like MJ is not the father of his children (I knew it! Kind of!). According to TMZ, in their nasty wrongful death lawsuit against AEG Live (Katharine Jackson and Blanket, Paris and Prince are suing the entertainment giant for $40 billion for the negligent hiring and supervision of Dr. Conrad Murray during preparation for Jackson's This Is It tour), his family is asking to exclude any evidence of the true paternity of Jackson's children.

I'm unsure why the paternity would be entered into evidence — I'm far from a legal scholar — but the fact the Jackson family is trying to block this is telling.

Also, if the Jacksons do prevail against AEG, I hope they use some of those billions for therapy for those poor kids. Because even the best therapist in the land (Dr. Phil, duh) cannot go there.

Lindsay Lohan

Guess who's going back to rehab

Lindsay Lohan is heading back to rehab. After reaching a deal with Judge James Dabney relating to her car crash last June, Lohan entered a guilty plea to giving false information to an officer, reckless driving and violating her probation, according to TMZ.

Lohan was offered 90 days in jail but is allowed to serve out that sentence in a locked rehab facility. She is also on the hook for 30 days of community service, 18 months of psychotherapy, plus she has to pay fines and restitution to the victim in the car accident.

"This is it," Dabney told Lohan at the hearing. "You violate your probation, and we are not going to have this conversation about putting you back on probation." He also offered her some personal advice: "Don't drive," he said.

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LIFE 3

Is Albuquerque's tourism industry Breaking Bad?

Drug-induced dilemma. New Mexico city is profiting from visitors scoping out sites from hit TV series, but is it a rep they want to promote?

A fast-food burrito chain in Albuquerque has become an international tourist attraction as people come from all over the world to see the spot where a fictional drug trafficker runs his organization. A pastry shop sells doughnuts topped with blue candy designed to resemble crystal meth. A beauty store has a similar product — crystal blue bathing salts.

As Breaking Bad finishes filming its fifth and final season in Albuquerque, the popularity of the show is providing a boost to the economy and creating a dilemma for local tourism officials as they walk the fine line of profiting from a show that centres around drug trafficking, addiction and violence. Breaking Bad follows the fictional character Walter White, a high school chemistry teacher turned meth lord.

Albuquerque has seen an unexpected jump in tourists visiting popular sites from the show and local businesses cashing in on its popularity. Tourists are also flocking to sites that before the show were unknown and unimportant — the suburban home of White, played by Bryan Cranston, a car wash that is a front for a money-laundering operation on the series, a rundown motel used frequently for filming and the real-life burrito joint, which is a fast food chicken restaurant on the show. The Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau has even created a website of the show's most popular places around town to help tourists navigate, and ABQ Trolley Company sold out all its "BaD" tours last year at $60 a ticket.

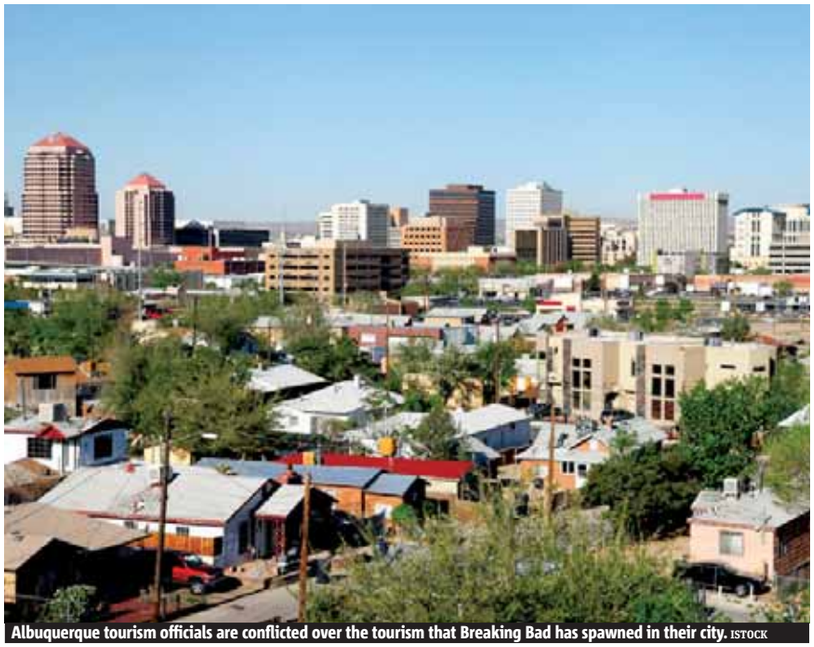
"They ask if they can take pictures. They ask if Gus is here," said Rachel Johnson, 19, a shift manager at the Twisters burrito restaurant in Albuquerque's South Valley, referring to the show's character Gus Fring, played by actor Giancarlo Esposito. The eatery has served as the location for the Los Pollos Hermanos restaurant where Fring runs his drug operation.

Tourism officials and business owners are quick to point out that they are walking a fine line in trying not to promote the dark themes from Breaking Bad. But their pride in the show taking place in Albuquerque — and the money that it brings in — is often enough to offset their concerns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **Albuquerque Breaking Bad locations.** itsatrip.org/albuquerque/arts/breaking-bad-in-albuquerque.aspx offers map for self-guided tours and other information from the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau.



Albuquerque tourism officials are conflicted over the tourism that Breaking Bad has spawned in their city. ISTOCK

Debbie Ball, 60, owner of The Candy Lady store in Albuquerque, displays her new line of "meth candy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bryan Cranston as Walter White, left, and Aaron Paul as Jesse Pinkman in a scene from Breaking Bad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There are probably more free things to do in the U.S. capital than nearly any other major city in the world. The most popular museums and the zoo are free, as well as the picturesque memorials and monuments. With so many free options, the biggest challenge might be narrowing down what to see.

PHOTOS AND STORY: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 free things in Washington D.C.

Smithsonian Institute

No visit to the U.S. capital is complete without a visit to the nation's museums. First-time visitors learn fast that a trip to the Smithsonian is not a visit to one place. There are actually 19 different museums that are part of the Smithsonian, along with the National Zoo. Most line the National Mall. Some must-see exhibits: The Apollo 11 capsule that carried the first men to land on the moon, President Abraham Lincoln's top hat and Dorothy's "ruby slippers" from The Wizard of Oz, and the large Hope Diamond.

National Mall

The nearly four kilometre grassy expanse between the Capitol and Potomac River features memorials honouring five presidents, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, as well as Martin Luther King Jr. and battle monuments in tribute to America's veterans. One of the best times to visit is in the evening, as the monuments are lit and crowds have dwindled. Beyond the large monuments, there are dozens of smaller statues, historic sites and walking paths along the mall. The park also draws about one million people each year to see its famous cherry blossom trees when they reach full bloom in late March or early April.

Behind the scenes

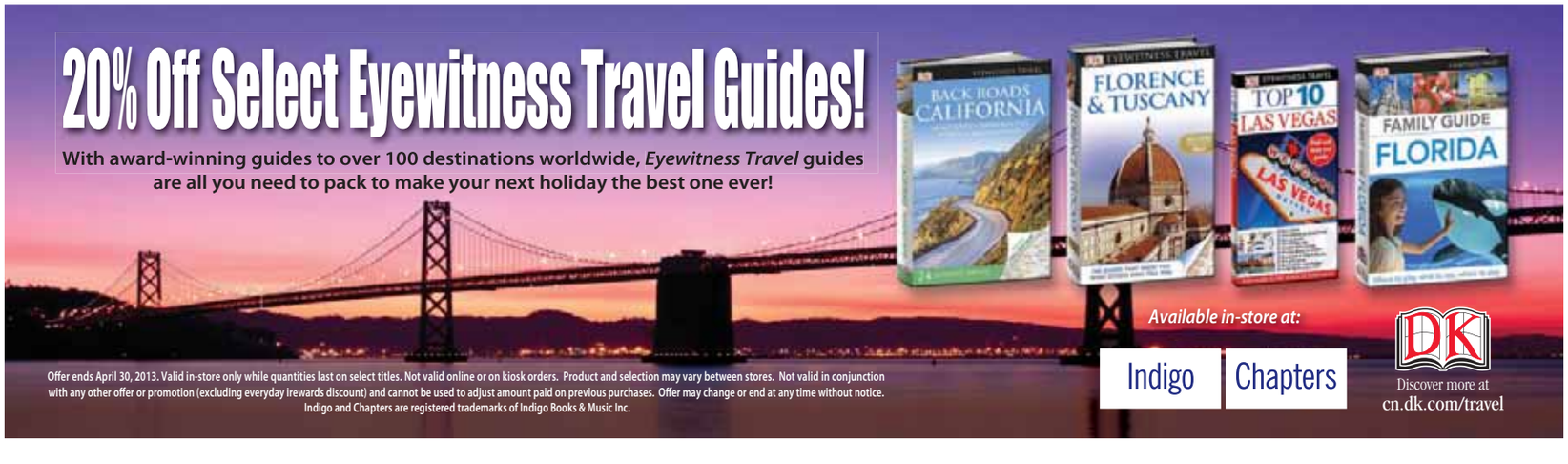
Washington is a city where everyone wants special access and a look behind the scenes of power. One of the best ways is to plan ahead. Call your member of Congress to request a personal tour led by a congressional staffer. Visitors can also ask for a tour of the Capitol dome. White House tours are also normally available through congressional offices, though they have been halted temporarily to government budget cuts. International visitors can request tickets through their country's embassy. If you don't have time for reservations, the Capitol Visitor Center offers free exhibits and tours of the Capitol. Tickets are available online. A limited number of same-day passes also are distributed at the information desks each day. The centre also offers specialty tours on the Capitol's history and artwork.

Presidential sites

A walk through downtown Washington offers a chance to connect with presidential history. A short walk from the White House, Ford's Theatre, where President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, offers daily tours with free same-day tickets distributed each morning at 8:30 a.m. Otherwise, advance tickets are $2.50 per person. Walk five minutes further from the theatre and visitors will find the National Portrait Gallery. Its most popular collection is the presidential portraits, including some of the most famous images of George Washington and Abe Lincoln.

Waterfront and Kennedy Center

Washington is increasingly embracing its waterfronts that were once neglected. New gardens and walking paths are bringing new life to these spaces. In Georgetown, a new park along the Potomac River has become a popular place to relax. Take a stroll along the water. Bring a picnic or stop for a late lunch at a riverside café. Then head toward the Kennedy Center along the river. This living memorial to President John F. Kennedy offers free tours with no reservations required. Arrive in time for the 4:30 p.m. tour of the theatres and concert halls. Then stay for a free Millennium Stage performance every day at 6 p.m.



Take a walk on B.C.'s wild side

Galiano Island. The wildlife and scenery will keep you hiking on the 75 kilometres of trails that are waiting to be explored

One of several Southern Gulf Islands in the waters between B.C.'s Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, Galiano is the first stop from Tsawwassen for BC Ferries on its island run.

The 50-minute ferry ride to the island allows time to shrug off the busyness of the Vancouver area and arrive ready for the unhurried pace of the small island.

The forest-covered island is just over 27-kilometres long, six kilometres at its widest point, and 1.6 at its narrowest.

The island is a walking and hiking paradise, with water, island and far-off mountain views from almost every one of the dozens of beach-access points. Much of the wildlife on the island appears indifferent to humans.

The deer will saunter off the road as your car comes near, then turn back to stare if you stop to look at them.

Henny Schnare has photographed the island's wildlife for many years and is the membership director for the Galiano Island Chamber of Commerce.

"We have absolutely thousands of humming birds every year, principally the rufous humming bird that lands on all the Gulf Islands," she said.

"They come at the end of March all the way through to August and some even over winter."

But you can also see eagles fishing off the bluffs, thousands of gulls gathering in Active Pass and killer whales just off the beaches, she said.

"The other thing that we actually keep quite secret on the island is that we have a tremendous number of the great blue herons," she said as her voice became low and conspiratorial.

"We don't tend to publicize where they are because they own the place, we don't."

You may happen on nesting herons on a beach walk. Finding those walks is easy, beach access is well marked on the road with a sign.

Some access points may take you on a meandering walk through a quiet forest of massive trees, sword ferns and salal, while others offer a stunning bluff view before you begin a steep trek down.

At low tide, you can walk over many of the sandstone beaches to explore the sea life.

One of the island's most spectacular beaches is in Montague Harbour Provincial Marine Park on the west side of the island.

The park is the site of an ancient First Nation's midden pit, believed to be about 3,000 years old. It was home to the Coast Salish, Penelakut First Nation, when the island's namesake, Spanish explorer Dionisio Alcala Galiano, explored Canada's West Coast in 1792.

Montague beach is covered in white sand from the many layers of discarded shells on the beach. The sand makes the water appear an aqua blue-green that rivals any Caribbean beach.

But the water's chilly temperature quickly dispels any other such connections.

Some trails will take you on a walk through scenic forests. THE CANADIAN PRESS

During the summer, beaches on the east side of the island are "very swimable" because of the warmer waters coming from the Fraser River, just across the Salish Sea, Schnare said.

If you're looking for a trail walk or hike, there are about 75 kilometres of trails to explore.

"It's a great place for hiking," said Paul LeBlond of the Galiano Trails Society, one of several groups that oversee the trails on the island.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Assist without getting dismissed

To annoy is to destroy. Five easy ways to upsell at your retail job without being pushy

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

You've probably dealt with pushy retail salespeople before.

The ones who make you feel uncomfortable because they keep asking you to buy stuff even though you've said you're not interested more than once.

You know what I'm talking about, right? Perfect, you know how it feels and you know that it usually sends people searching for the nearest exit.

So, if you work in retail, don't be anything like that.

The challenge is that store management expects you to sell more products, maintain certain performance metrics and put more cash into the store's till. You can do this without begging customers to buy and spend more by offering them related products or services.

The guy taking your order at the drive-thru does this all the time by asking you if you'd like fries with your hamburger. Most of the time you say no. But sometimes, you say yes. That's how you get people to buy and spend more. It's called upselling.

Effective upselling requires patience, detailed observation, resilience and some skill.

Get a few more dollars out of your customers by following these five upselling tips:

The pathway you take to the checkout counter can present upselling opportunities too. If you're helping someone with frames, for example, show them to the hardware aisle before they leave the store. ISTOCK

Happy ending

Close the sale the way you started it

Remember how bubbly and friendly you were when the customer walked into the store? Act the same way throughout the entire transaction, tell them your name and don't forget to thank them for shopping at your store before they leave.

Get them talking

People love talking about themselves. In my experience, the better the conversation, the longer a customer stays in the store, the more they tend to spend and the greater the chance they'll become a repeat customer.

Conversation helps build a relationship, showcases your product knowledge and makes the customer feel like you're their friend instead of a salesperson. How, though?

Ask open-ended questions

Get your customers talking by asking them open-ended questions. You don't want their response to be "yes" or "no" because you can't learn anything about them, how they plan to use the product or how much they're able to spend.

This process will reveal products or services that the customers didn't intend to buy.

If you're selling athletic footwear, for example, try asking questions like:

- What are you planning to use your shoes for?
- How much are you willing to spend?
- Tell me about your current pair of running shoes.

Suggest products your customers need

The answers to your open-ended questions will help you suggest products the customer might need to solve a problem they expressed during your conversation. If you're suggesting a more expensive product than the one they came to the store to purchase, always explain its features, benefits and why this product is better suited to fulfil their needs.

Not every upselling story has a happy ending. How you handle rejection can send a message to the customer about how genuine your recommendations really were.

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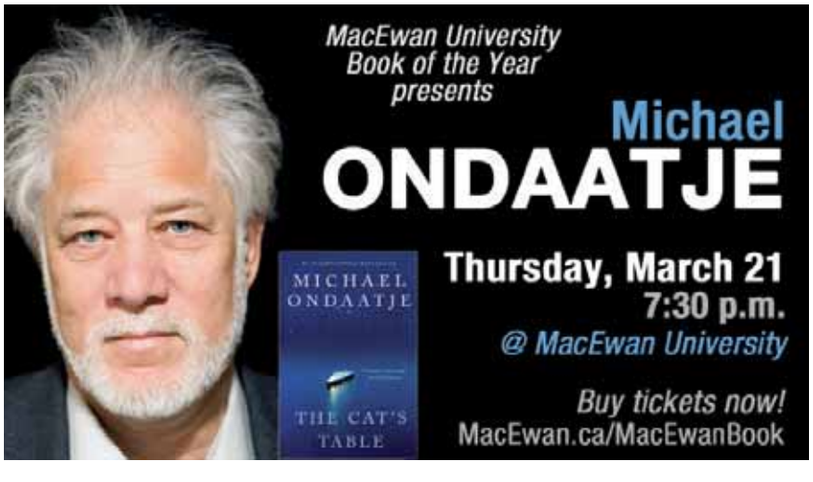

Spring into healthy eating habits with Greek Yogurt Chicken Salad

Skip the bread and opt for lettuce leaves instead. MAIJA MOMENTS OF YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA

MAIJA MOMENTS
YummyMummyClub.ca

While I am all for deli-style chicken salad sandwiches on thick slices of white bread, sometimes the part of my brain that reminds me I need to be eating a little bit healthier pipes up and insists that some dishes can be made with health in mind.

It turns out, this recipe for Greek Yogurt Chicken Salad is as yummy as the original and can be made even healthier by using it in Chicken Salad Lettuce Wraps.

I also have to admit that I'll eat this stuff out of a bowl on its own, over rice or spread on toast. It's that yummy!

1. In a bowl, add chicken, celery, cucumber and cilantro.

2. Mix in Greek yogurt, Dijon mustard, and avocado until combined.

3. Place equal amounts of cabbage onto each lettuce leaf and top with chicken salad. Roll and enjoy!

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Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 4 slices cucumber, chopped
- 1-2 tbsp fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1/2 avocado, peeled, pit removed, sliced and tossed in 1/2 tsp lemon or lime juice if desired (the bottled kind is fine)
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- 6 lettuce leaves suitable for wraps

Drink of the Week

Blueberry-Mango Smoothie

This smoothie combines antioxidant-rich blueberries with mangos for a refreshing treat that is ready to enjoy in a few minutes.

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) plain soy milk
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) plain low-fat yogurt
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) frozen unsweetened blueberries
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) peeled cubed mango
- 1 packet Pure Via zero calorie sweetener
- 1 to 2 ice cubes

Place soy milk, yogurt, blueberries, mango and sweetener in blender container. Blend on medium speed until smooth. Add ice cubes and continue to blend until smooth. Pour in tall glass and serve.

NEWS CANADA

Orange Ginger Sauce: make broccoli lovers of your family

If you believe everything you read on the Internet, coconut oil is a panacea, recommended for everything from frying your chicken to shaving your legs.

Its proponents say it relieves stress, promotes increased immunity, metabolism and weight loss, fights viruses, Alzheimer's disease, kidney problems, heart disease, high blood pressure and much more.

But coconut oil is more than 90 per cent saturated fat, or about 11.8 grams per 15 millilitres, compared to about 63 per cent or 7.2 grams for the same amount of butter. And saturated fat is generally considered to be a "bad" fat that increases overall cholesterol levels.

The reason this doesn't apply to coconut oil, say supporters, is that about half the saturated fat in the oil is medium-chain fatty acids, which are easier to digest than the more prevalent long-chain fatty acids in most other oils.

While the scientific community doesn't disagree, it urges caution. Everybody from the World Health Organization to the American Heart Association and Dietitians of Canada advise limiting the consumption of significant amounts of coconut oil due to its high saturated fat content.

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Jackie Sarginson of Quesnel, B.C., is a firm believer in the benefits of coconut oil. She is one of the owners of T.T. Ultimate Products, the Canadian distributor of a high-end line of coconut oil called Tropical Traditions.

All coconut oil comes in the form of a white solid and looks much like shortening. Stored at room temperature, it will last for years.

Broccoli or Green Beans With Orange Ginger Sauce

1. Blanch veg in boiling salted water 4 minutes. Drain.

Ingredients

- 1 bunch broccoli, cut into florets, or 750 ml (3 cups) green beans, sliced diagonally into pieces
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) virgin coconut oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) soy sauce
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) honey
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) orange zest
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) orange juice
- 1 medium garlic clove, peeled and chopped
- 1 small piece fresh ginger root, peeled and chopped
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) Himalayan salt

2. Meanwhile, in a food processor combine remaining ingredients and process, scraping down sides as needed, until dressing is smooth.

3. If broccoli or beans still hot, toss with sauce and serve immediately. If vegetables have cooled too much and warm sauce is preferred, vegetables and sauce can be sautéed in a pan over medium heat 2 minutes before serving. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RECIPE COURTESY OF JACKIE SARGINSON OF T.T. ULTIMATE PRODUCTS.

Lunch. Spinach, Strawberry & Goat Cheese Sandwich

Many people are familiar with salads containing spinach, strawberries and goat cheese, so why not turn this combination into a delicious sandwich as well?

Sandwiches are a smart way to get all of your daily nutrients. Did you know that bread has naturally occurring vitamins and minerals similar to fruits and vegetables?

Baked with simple, wholesome ingredients like those found in your kitchen, this sandwich is healthy, unique and delicious.

1. Divide goat cheese and spinach between 2 slices of toast. Top with berries, drizzle with balsamic vinegar and season with salt and pepper.

2. Top with remaining slices of toast to form sandwiches. Slice in half and serve immediately.

NEWS CANADA/ NATURALLYDEMPSTERS.CA

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup (80 ml) crumbled goat cheese
- 2 cups (500 ml) baby spinach leaves
- 4 Slices Dempster's WholeGrains 12 Grain Bread, toasted
- 1 cup (250 ml) sliced strawberries
- Balsamic vinegar to drizzle
- Salt and pepper

4 SPORTS

NHL

Malkin hopes to suit up this week

Pittsburgh Penguins centre Evgeni Malkin skated with his teammates on Tuesday morning and is hopeful he can return to the lineup later this week.

The reigning NHL MVP has missed Pittsburgh's past five games with an undisclosed upper-body injury. He worked out by himself then joined the team for a morning skate, though he was ruled out for Tuesday night's game against Washington, a 2-1 win for the Penguins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

James' Ohio visit overshadowed by win streak

LeBron James and the Miami Heat are about to play another game in Cleveland. Yawn.

That's what a 23-game winning streak will do.

It mutes the LeBron-Goes-Home-Again hype.

But after gutting out a win in Boston on Monday night and what lies ahead, it may no longer be farfetched to think that the record of 33 straight victories set by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers is within Miami's grasp.

"I know the history of the game. To be sitting in second place right now ... for us to be there and doing it in the way we want to do it, it means a lot," James said after the Boston game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James GETTY IMAGES

Magnus Paajarvi shoots past Duncan Keith of the Chicago Blackhawks on March 10 in Chicago. Paajarvi 's performance this year has been underwhelming, but the type of player he'll become has nothing to do with his high selection in the draft. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Paajarvi's future won't be determined by pick

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ryan Kennedy
edmonton@metronews.ca

Role adjustment

But if Paajarvi were to hone his game into more of a shutdown role, perhaps the Oilers would find themselves better balanced.

It's funny to look at past drafts and see where players are selected. Patrik Stefan went first overall the same year Henrik Zetterberg was taken 210th. Alex Ovechkin and Evgeni Malkin had immediate NHL impacts, while the player taken right after the pair, Cam Barker, has been a journeyman.

So don't concern yourself too much with Magnus Paajarvi's lot in life as a top-10 pick who has not put up colossal numbers in the NHL. Sure, the swift Swede was highly touted back in 2009, but even then there were questions as to whether he could finish off offensive chances once he beat everyone else to the net.

As it turns out, that scoring prowess still hasn't materialized in the NHL, and at one point last season, Paajarvi went through a horrible spell when he couldn't buy a goal and was sent down to the AHL to get right. But if Paajarvi can contribute otherwise to the Edmonton effort, does his draft spot matter?

With his speed and size, Paajarvi can still be an asset, even if it's not in a top-six role. Looking at advanced stats from the website Behind the Net, you can see that among Oilers, Paajarvi's not bad when it comes to puck possession, the darling metric of the new stat crowd. In fact, among regulars on the team, he's behind only Taylor Hall, Jordan Eberle and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins when it comes to pucks fired toward the enemy versus fired toward the Oilers' net (also known as CORSI). Admittedly, Edmonton is dreadful overall in this category, but it's all relative.

Right now, Paajarvi gets a modicum of penalty-kill time on a unit that is very good overall. Would it be better or worse with him puck-hawking more when down a man? That's up for coach Ralph Krueger to decide.

But if Paajarvi were to hone his game into more of a shutdown role, perhaps the Oilers would find themselves better balanced. Dave Bolland made the switch from offensive wizard to defensive demon when he got to the NHL and the Chicago stalwart has a Stanley Cup ring to show for his efforts. If Paajarvi is an effective NHLer when all is said and done, it won't matter where he was selected.

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Will they stay or will they go?

With Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry off the trade market, the interest now switches to several other players who could make an impact with teams trying to make the playoffs or those hoping for a long post-season run.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Getty Images

Jarome Iginla

The Calgary captain has moved to the top of the list. Flames GM Jay Feaster absolutely needs to trade him to start the rebuilding process. Any deal has to include a first-round pick and a top prospect. Iginla appears ready to move but he has a say in where he'll go. Look for Pittsburgh and Los Angeles to make pitches.

Martin St. Louis

If Steve Yzerman decides it's time to deal him, then St. Louis might move past Iginla as the most sought-after player. Tampa looks like they'll be on the sidelines. St. Louis is 37 but he's still a premier playmaker, with 30 assists to go along with his seven goals. He needs to OK any trade, and Stevie Y will certainly want some talented youth in return.

David Clarkson

Hard to see Devils GM Lou Lamoriello trading Clarkson, 28, with New Jersey still in the playoff picture. He'll be an unrestricted free agent this summer, so if you're going to give up a draft pick to get him, you'd better be sure you can sign him. It will take more than his current $2.6-million salary. He scored 30 last season and has 11 in 29 this year.

Marian Gaborik

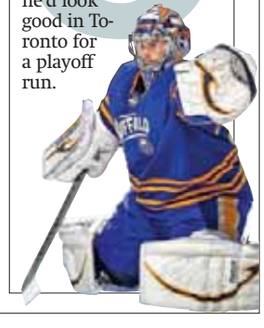
The New York Rangers apparently are trying to deal him and there's a match if a team can give them a top four defenceman. But he's got a no-trade clause and likes playing and living in Manhattan.

Robert Luongo

It's getting to the point where the Vancouver Canucks might need both of their goalies to even make the playoffs, never mind do some damage in the post-season. Once a lock to be dealt, it now seems more likely a deal will happen in the summer unless Mike Gillis is really desperate for a second-line centre.

Ryan Miller

If there is to be a house cleaning in Buffalo, Miller could fetch some young talent. He can win games on his own when he's motivated. He's spent a career beating the Leafs and he'd look good in Toronto for a playoff run.



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SPRING CAR CARE

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Take time to wash the dirt and grime off your vehicle after driving during the winter. Also, be sure to change the fluids and check all belts and hoses. COMSTOCK/THINKSTOCK

It's time to spring into action

It's a new season. With warmer weather around the corner, get your vehicle looking its best

Living in Canada means that most of us have to endure long, cold winters and that can be tough on our vehicles. Salt, snow and freezing cold temperatures can test electrical systems, stain carpets and generally cause our vehicles to look filthy and unkempt.

When spring rolls around and the days get warmer and longer, we want to be outside and show off our favourite ride. However, in order to ensure that it both looks and runs good, there are some things you need to consider as the last vestiges of winter are left behind.

Change your fluids

Whether the car has been driven during winter or not, one of the best things you can do is change the fluids. This includes the oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, differential fluid and anti-freeze. If you are unsure of the last time any were changed do it as a matter of precaution. If the vehicle is newer, then refer to your owner's manual and the warranty information booklet.

Rust proofing

If you want your vehicle to last longer, an annual application of rust proofing is a good investment. The best time to have rust proofing applied is during the spring since warmer temperatures and salt residue left over from winter accelerate the oxidation process.

Check your belts and hoses

Another easy thing to do is to check your belts and hoses. Over time, rubber becomes brittle, causing it to crack. Even if you aren't able to change them yourself, get them inspected as part of your spring service.

Give it a bath

This might seem obvious, but once the warmer weather arrives, spend the time to give your vehicle a good wash. Before you start, make sure you wash the vehicle out of direct sunlight in order to prevent soap and water stains from forming on the paint.

Detailing

Once the vehicle has been washed, it's time to detail it. There are a huge range of vehicle specific detailing products on the market today, ranging from tire shine, to paint polishes and waxes, glass cleaners and even trim and interior sprays. Spring is often a good time to go shopping at your local car accessory store to stock up on fresh products.

Don't forget the wheels

Even if a vehicle has great paint, once it has been cleaned it can be let down by dirty or shoddy looking wheels. Modern alloys, especially, really benefit from a good quality wheel cleaner, and once the work has been done, can make your ride look like a million bucks.

Clean the inside

Besides the exterior, you should clean inside, too.

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Do you love your car?

The majority of Canadians are having a love affair with their cars, according to a recent survey.

An Angus Reid public opinion poll commissioned by Canadian Tire found that 63 per cent of Canadian drivers say their vehicle is like an extra appendage with which they can't live without. Survey results also show that Canadians are spending considerable time in their cars — nearly half (46 per cent) spend four to nine hours behind the wheel and another 18 per cent spend between 10 to 15 hours each week in their vehicle.

Despite feeling the love for their cars, however, results reveal that some owners are less devoted when it comes to caring for their vehicles. While the majority (79 per cent) of Canadians like to keep the exterior of their cars shiny and clean by washing them at least three or four times throughout the year, only half of drivers give their interiors the same TLC, despite admitting that they regularly eat and drink in their cars.

More survey findings

- **Pet names:** Fourteen per cent of car owners admit to naming their cars, with "Baby" or "Mon Bebe" topping the list as most popular names.
- **DIY approach:** Canadian car owners are hands-on when it comes to washing the exterior of their cars, whether doing it at home (40 per cent) or at a drive-through (49 per cent). Only six per cent have their cars professionally cleaned.
- **Total car protection:** Twenty-two per cent of owners say they will not let anyone eat or drink in their car at all, in order to keep it looking great.

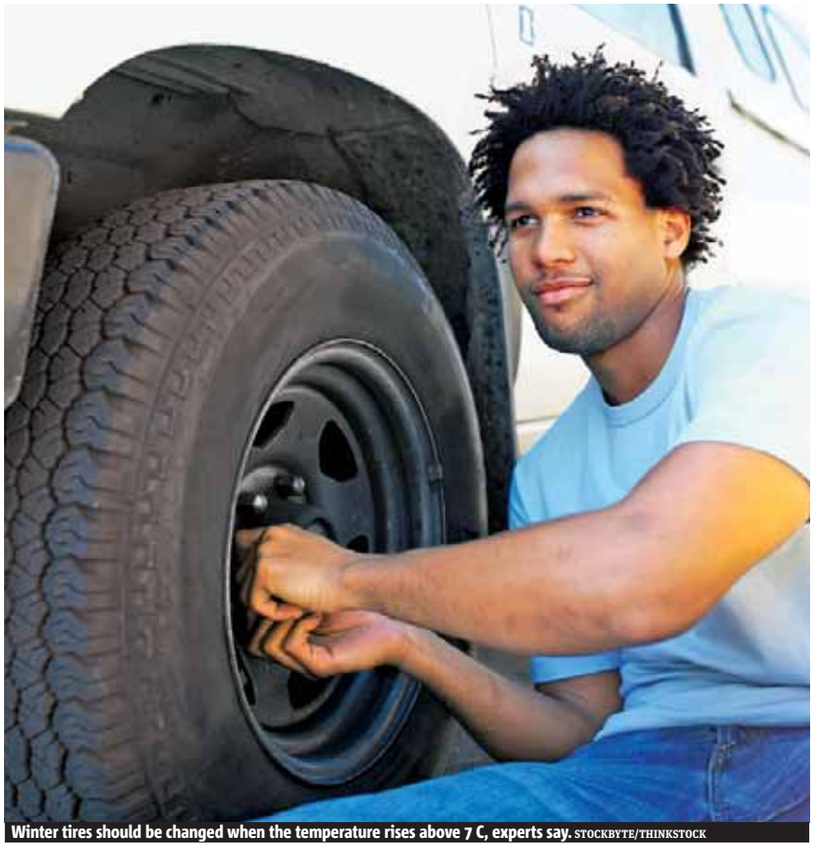
"With winter driving behind us and summer road trips on the horizon, it's time for Canadian car owners to show their cars some love by shifting into spring with the proper cleaning and maintenance," said Tony Kuczynski, vice-president of accessories, tires and auto service for Canadian Tire.

Winter tire removal

When it comes to winter tire removal, owners were split on the best time of year to do so. Nearly one-third (30 per cent) of respondents remove them as soon as the snow melts, while 28 per cent wait until at least May, just to be safe.

Kuczynski suggests that car owners who are waiting until May might be causing unnecessary damage.

"With experience installing and removing hundreds of thousands of winter tires every year, we recommend that in order to avoid excessive tire wear, winter tires should be changed when the temperature outside rises above 7 C, which in most of Canada is between mid-April and May. Winter tires left on too long in warm weather can accelerate wear and tear to the treads, which could impact grip on the road next winter." METRO NEWS SERVICES



Winter tires should be changed when the temperature rises above 7 C, experts say. STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

Potholes. Avoid a hefty price tag

You're driving along when you feel that familiar jolt after unexpectedly hitting a pothole.

You know without even looking at a calendar that it's pothole season, the time of year when you notice more and more craters popping up on your drive to and from home.

For some drivers, pothole season comes with a hefty price tag. Damage to your vehicle could mean costly repairs. The parts of your car that may be damaged include

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

— wheel alignment, mufflers, wheel rims/hubcaps, tires, suspension components and shock absorbers.

The CAA recommends the following spring driving tips:

- Keep your speed down.
- Be cautious when roads are wet, as there may be a pothole under that puddle.
- Be extra careful at night when potholes are hard to see.
- Watch for cyclists swerving to avoid potholes.
- Keep tires properly inflated. An improperly inflated tire increases the chance it will burst when it hits a pothole.
- Have tires, wheels and suspension components of your vehicle inspected frequently if you drive over potholes.

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Survey. Women feel slighted at auto shops

Today's woman still takes a back seat to her male counterpart when it comes to servicing her car, according to a recent survey.

A poll commissioned by Speedy Corporation, a leader in while-you-wait automotive services, found that almost half of Canadian women surveyed (43 per cent) feel they receive worse service than men when it comes to having their cars fixed.

Further, 42 per cent of women believe they are quoted higher prices than men when looking to service their cars. This old-fashioned notion that automotive repair shops favour the male driver is not only held by women — the survey found that more than one-third of men polled (36 per cent) feel the level of service delivered by a mechanic is affected by gender. Clearly, men are also noticing that women don't receive the same level of service.

Despite a biased treatment at the shop, women appear to be adopting a do-it-yourself attitude in their own garages. Not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get down with dirt, 70 per cent of women surveyed said they know how to check their car's oil. Just more than half of Canadian women surveyed (52 per cent) said they could change a windshield wiper, and one-third said they are comfortable changing a tire.

However, the level of car care confidence seems to be generational, with women aged 18 to 44 showing the highest rates of do-it-yourself skills, while women 50 and older had the lowest response rates for hands-on maintenance.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Make sure your tire pressure is within factory specifications. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Keep your vehicle running smoothly

Your vehicle has survived the harsh winter and with the lure of long weekends, cottage getaways and summer road trips, it's time for a spring tune-up so you don't get left at the side of the road.

The CAA recommends:

- Seasonal maintenance checkups.
- Give your vehicle a thorough cleaning to remove salt and sand accumulated over the winter. Clean under the hood; shampoo the engine and wheel wells.
- Check all lights to ensure they are in good working order, including the headlights, brake, reverse, turn indicators, hazard lights and license plate.
- Remove winter tires and install all-season tires.
- Make sure your tire pressure is within factory specifications. The vehicle's owner manual will have recommendations and the information can also be found on the drivers' door jam or glove box.
- Always keep your mirrors and windows clean.
- Check your wiper blades and replace if they are worn or damaged. Wiper blades are critical for safety, and only have a lifespan of about 12 months.
- Change your oil every 5,000 kilometres or three months (whichever comes first) and keep fluids like brake, coolant and windshield washer topped up.

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ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

2014 Kia Forte

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan
- **Engine (hp)**: 1.8-litre DOHC I4 (148); 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (173)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual (1.8); six-speed automatic (optional on 1.8, standard on 2.0)
- **Base price (including destination).** $17,500 (estimated)

Design

The Forte's looks for 2014 have been dramatically changed from play-it-safe conservative to fashionably sophisticated. The car contains elements of the Elantra, particularly above the beltline with its dramatically sloping windshield, while the distinctive familial "tiger nose" provides an important point of differentiation. Overall length has increased by about 2.5 centimetres, while the distance between the front and rear wheels has been extended by five centimetres. That stretch pays off in added legroom for front and rear passengers, but a lower roofline means there's a bit less total passenger volume than before.

Good design can't be translated unless the quality and materials are first rate. Kia brings that along in lockstep.

Engine

Also dialed back somewhat is the Forte's power. The new base 1.8-litre engine (also shared with the Elantra) pumps out 148 horsepower and 131 pound-feet of torque, compared with 156 horsepower and 144 pound-feet for the previous base 2.0-litre. The now-optional 2.0-litre four-cylinder (that surprisingly is not on the Elantra sedan's menu) produces 173 horsepower and 154 pound-feet of torque.

Fuel economy

Official fuel-economy stats (a touchy subject for Hyundai/Kia lately, given its recent recanting of fuel economy claims on certain models) have yet to be released, but the numbers for the base 1.8 should be in the 7.0-l/100-km range in the city and about 5.0-5.5 on the highway.

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Despite being an all-new model for 2010, the Kia Forte never really caught on in a big way. When you look at the numbers now, it really has nowhere to go but up, and with this redesign, that's where this compact is headed.

The new Forte that launches this spring bears the unmistakable influence of design chief Peter Schreyer. For the past six years, the former Audi stylist has been largely responsible for the style of Kia's fleet, as well as those built by its Hyundai parent. With Schreyer's assistance, Hyundai Elantra sales have more than doubled since the 2008 model year, while the Forte, which trails by a considerable margin, has experienced a more modest advance since arriving for 2010. The Forte's platform is shared with the Elantra.

A six-speed manual transmission comes with the 1.8, while a six-speed automatic is optional but standard with the 2.0 along with Kia's "Idle Stop & Go." This piece of new fuel-saving tech shuts off the engine when the Forte is stopped in traffic, then restarts it when the brake pedal is released.

Spending time aboard the Forte will prove comforting for passengers and especially pleasing for the driver who faces an intuitively laid-out dashboard and control panel.

He or she also has command over the level of steering effort with the Forte's optional Flex Steer system. With it, the electric power steering can be adjusted to comfort, normal and sport settings, with the latter offering the least amount of assist.

Of the Forte's two trim levels, the starting-point LX leans to the simpler side of the ledger with its smaller engine, 15-inch steel wheels, basic audio system and the lack of cruise control or a keyless-remote-entry button on the fob.

Move up to the EX and it's a different story. Along with adding the LX's missing items, you can count on dual-zone climate control, a Microsoft-powered infotainment system, backup camera, glove-box cooler and 16-inch alloy wheels. Oh, and the optional 2.0-litre four-cylinder is also an EX staple.

But it's the lengthy option list that can turn the EX into a junior-sized luxury sedan.

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ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA

Penetrating insights

The marketing arm of WD-40 claims that the product has a wide variety of auto-related uses, such as removing bumper stickers, road grease and tar, keeping both manual and power-operated antennas from freezing in winter and keeping your trailer-hitch locking mechanism in working order. Most hardware and auto parts stores carry both the spray can and pen-sized applicator.

We have a bone to pick

This rolling seat is ideal for performing bodywork, cleaning wheels or when washing and/or waxing your car without having to constantly bend over. Go to bonecreeper.com for more information.

Fresh air, at last

To get your stale air-conditioning system smelling good again, try Justice Brothers' AC-Clean bacteria killer that also uses a mild scent to let you know it's working. Visit justicebrothers.com or call 626-359-9174.

5 Auto products to get you hyped for spring

Meet the blob

Just pull the sticky CyberClean blob from its plastic cup and press it into the problem area, such as dusty interior seams. Pull it away and grime is gone. Visit cyberclean.net to find out where to buy, but you're likely to find it at Canadian Tire.

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© 2013 Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. **2013 B 250 shown above.** *National MSRP $29,900, all-in pricing up to $32,540 dependent on region. National MSRP pricing is shown and is intended for information purposes only. [1]First, second and third month payment waivers are capped for the 2013 B 250 up to a total of $1,200 (including taxes) for lease programs and up to a total of $1,800 (including taxes) for finance programs. Payment waivers are only applicable on the 2013 B-Class, C-Class Coupe, Sedan, GLK-Class and E-Class models. Not applicable to AMG models. Prices do not include licence, insurance or registration fees, as well as any other products or services not listed that may be available to you through your selected Mercedes-Benz dealership. Vehicle prices subject to change. Dealer may sell for less. 1% rate reduction on B-Class model. Finance only. Reduced rate 1.9% up to 60 months. Offers may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. See your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for details or call the Mercedes-Benz Customer Relations Centre at 1-800-387-0100. Offers end March 31, 2013.

No need for flannel with Forester's new technology

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Some technological shifts take place over decades. Others take longer. We're still waiting, for example, for banking institutions to take less than five business days to clear a local cheque, even though they collectively possess more data transfer technology than the team of international engineers working on the World Space Station.

But let's talk about a technological shift that's more fun — how vehicle off-road technology is evolving from hardware to software.

Before computers crept into vehicles, if you wanted to go up a rugged hill with a 35-degree slope, you needed a squarish Jeep or Land Rover complete with locking differentials and hubs, a set of lower gears, a transfer case to select 4x4 and those lower gears, stiffer and bigger springs, skids plates, and tires so knobby that ground squirrels could live in their grooves for weeks. All manly and beefy stuff.

And the driving itself was equally rugged. Levers had to be pulled with some force. Braking, steering, shifting and gas pedalling all needed to be ratcheted up several notches over normal "on-pavement" standards.

You might step into an off-road vehicle like a highly evolved man or woman, but once fully 4x4 engaged, you would start grunting instead of using your words, shirt material would magically turn to flannel and your shut-down chainsaw would intermittently murmur in anticipation.

But no such transformation took place last week when we had an opportunity to try out the all-new 2014 Subaru Forester and its new-fangled off-road system. To keep Forester as one of the more capable off-roaders in its segment, Subaru updated its AWD system, but not so much with anything meaty and metally — more by making it smarter, through software.

Unlike the previous system, this AWD system talks to the steering wheel, the yaw rate sensor (how the vehicle rotates on its centre axis), and a device that measures transverse acceleration (I only wish I knew how to explain that).

Also new is X-Mode. Hit the X-mode switch on the console and Forester is transformed into a slow-speed off-road rock star (only works under 40 km/hr).

Some of the things it does: makes the throttle easier to feed in small amounts of power when going uphill; makes the throttle easier to more quickly feed in power when traversing rough roads and keeps a lower gear longer with no torque convertor lock-up.

Because the VDC system is already capable of applying brakes and throttle to keep a vehicle from spinning out of control, Subaru uses the functions to give us X-Mode's "Hill Descent" feature. Just point the vehicle down a steep hill and keep your feet off the brakes and throttle — and steer. The system automatically brakes and maintains the appropriate speed.

A final thought: after the Forester and I climbed a very steep and craggy hill, and then came down it in Hill Descent mode, and I was suitably impressed, I thought I would walk back up the hill for photo opportunities.

All I had to work with was my two un-techno legs, and I couldn't believe how easy it was, and how well suited they were for that task. Don't know where to go with that, just thought I would mention it.

Why is our correspondent driving the 2014 Subaru Forester with two wheels on a roller? Apparently, "it's fun." It was also Subaru's way of showing how cleverly the Forester's AWD system could carry on when both wheels on one side of the vehicle were completely traction deprived. CONTRIBUTED

Chevy HHR wagon a decent ride

Second Gear.
2006 to 2011
Chevrolet HHR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The Chevrolet HHR was a crossover wagon that rode the same platform as the Chevrolet Cobalt, was powered exclusively by four-cylinder engines and offered up retro styling, a flexible cabin and relatively low operating costs.

Look for feature content including Bluetooth, a sunroof, keyless entry, power accessories, leather-wrapped accents and more. Shoppers should note that LS models were the more "basic" HHR units, while LT models were more loaded.

Common Issues

Key concerns on a used HHR tend to centre around electric steering system failure, which could cause a loss of power assist. This may startle drivers and could result in an accident. Thankfully a recall addressed this situation, and your local GM dealership has more details.

Check the automatic gear shifter for proper operation, ensuring it shifts with no hesitation or difficulty. A faulty shifter button, cable and/or brake interlock switch could be to blame if that's not the case. You'll also want to note the ease of starting the engine and removing the key afterward, as some owners have reported issues with the ignition key.

Hard or aggressive shifting from a model with the automatic gearbox could be a sign of a problem with a sensor or computer module controlling the gearbox. Finally, note any clunking or popping noises, especially from the front end, which could be evidence of a worn-out suspension part.

Engine

Look for a 2.2 litre engine with 143 horsepower or a 2.4 litre with 172. Engine output was increased slightly in 2007, and all models got a four-speed automatic or five-speed manual transmission that drove the front wheels.

What owners like

Ride quality, handling, fuel mileage and interior flexibility were all highly rated by HHR owners taking to the web. Smooth and refined powerplant performance was also noted.

What owners dislike

Fussy seat controls, manual transmission shifter feel and rearward visibility, alongside blind spots, were among the HHR's more common complaints.

Verdict

Lower-than-average resale value combine with low running costs and high flexibility make a well-maintained, mechanically fit HHR a decent used buy. Just have that power steering system checked out.

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AMVIC Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council

#Limited time lease offers based on new 2013 Honda models. Lease examples based on a new 2013 Civic DX, model FB2E2DEX, available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £3.99% lease APR for 60 months. Bi-weekly payment, including freight and PDI, is $95.00. Down payment of $0, environmental fees, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,350.00. Taxes, license, insurance, environmental fees and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. ‡MSRP is $16,935.00 for a new 2013 Civic LX, model FB2E2DEX, and includes $1,495.00 freight and PDI. Taxes, license, insurance, environmental fees and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. #/£/‡ Offers valid from March 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for Alberta residents at Honda Dealers of Alberta locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit HondaAlberta.ca or see your Honda retailer for full details.

Heavy foot? Honda's Econ function fixes that

Driving Force. Fuel savings may be as high as six per cent

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

No matter what type of vehicle you're driving, your fuel economy will improve if you keep a light foot on the throttle. Many automakers are now making it easier by including an "Economy" button that will help do it for you.

"The Econ button has the ability to make you drive gently," says Hayato Mori, manager of product planning for Honda Canada. "It will feel like your engine just went down one size. The car functions fine, but if you're used to certain acceleration, you sacrifice a bit of performance for fuel (savings)."

The Econ button affects the throttle response and air conditioning, along with the transmission on automatic-equipped vehicles.

Most cars no longer have a cable or mechanical linkage connecting the throttle pedal to the engine. Instead, your foot pressure on the pedal sends an electronic signal to a computer that determines how much fuel to send to the engine.

Since hard "jackrabbit starts" are wasteful, the Econ system regulates a gentler throttle response, although you'll still have power to get up to speed or to pass other traffic.

Staying in a lower gear as your speed increases makes your engine work harder. An automatic transmission will always shift gears when the engine speed is high enough that the next gear is appropriate. But in Econ mode, the transmission will shift into the higher gears as soon as possible to reduce the load on the engine, which also saves fuel.

The Econ system won't have any control over a manual transmission, where it's up to the driver to shift gears, but there may be an upshift light in the dash. This advises the driver, based on the engine speed, when he should shift to a higher gear for better fuel economy.

Finally, when the Econ button is activated and the air conditioning is on, the system will limit the length of time the a/c condenser runs. The condenser uses engine power, so while the cabin may be slightly warmer than with full a/c, you'll notice a difference in fuel consumption.

Several Honda vehicles have lights in the instrument cluster, which coach you to drive more efficiently by changing from green to blue if your foot's too heavy. "If you follow the coaching lights and use the Econ button, you can get up to four and possibly six per cent savings in fuel," Mori says.

More tips

- Many vehicles have a "Sport" button, which works opposite to an Econ button: it quickens throttle response, holds lower gears longer, and on some, tightens the steering feel for sportier performance.
- Your fuel economy will always improve if you accelerate gently, and use steady throttle pressure to maintain your speed.

Fuel economy goes up by using the Econ function, but a little bit of performance is sacrificed. COURTESY HONDA CANADA

†Coverage begins from the original new retail sale date and covers 7-years/140,000-kilometres, whichever comes first. ‡0.9% APR only for well qualified buyers; not all buyers will qualify. Amount of down payment and other factors may affect qualification. 0.9% APR available on all models and all qualifying model years (the 5 model years immediately preceding the date of this advertisement, or newer) for up to 24-month terms. Based on a representative example of $15,000 financed at 0.9% over 24 months equals monthly payments of $630.88 with $0 down payment, cost of borrowing is $141.03 with a total obligation of $15,141.03. Licence, insurance, taxes, down payment, and, where applicable, PPSA and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at time of purchase. Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offer subject to change without notice. Visit your participating dealer for complete details.

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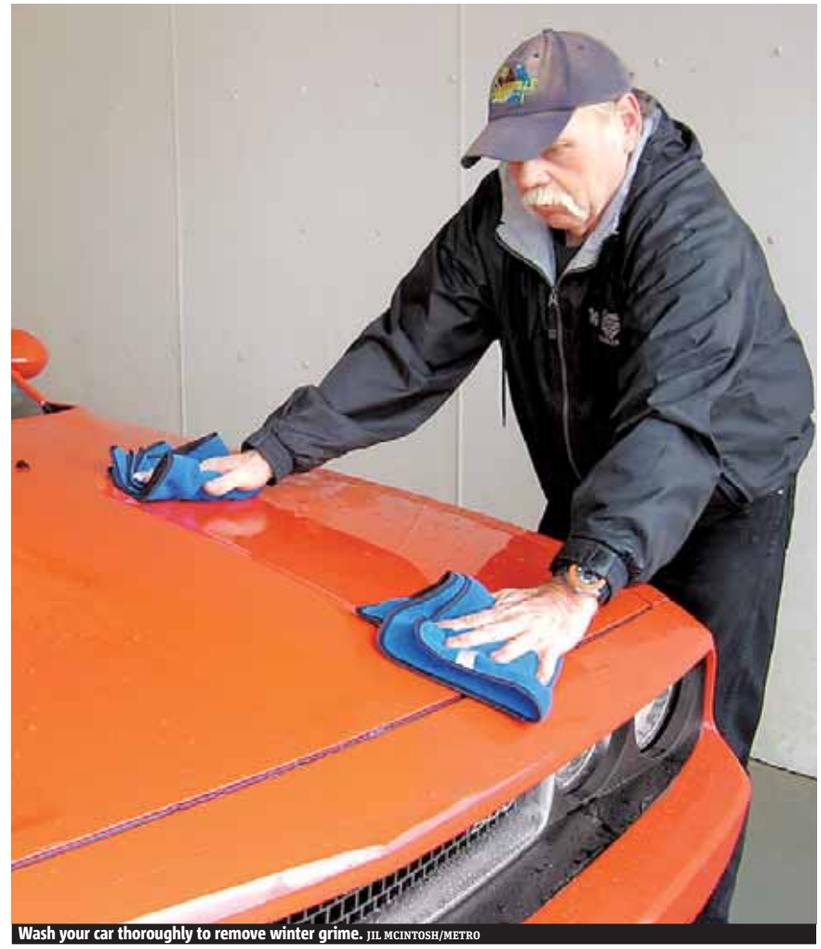

Wash your car thoroughly to remove winter grime. JIL MCINTOSH/METRO

Show your car some love as the weather heats up

Spring cleaning. Get rid of winter grime that can damage your car's components

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

It often feels like it takes forever, but eventually winter turns into spring. And when it does, your car will benefit from some extra attention to get it ready for nicer weather.

"First and foremost, know how your vehicle handled itself through the winter," says Ben Spatafora, national director for CarCostCanada. "Imperfections will usually come to the surface through inclement weather."

Thoroughly clean the car inside and out to get rid of winter grime. Salt build-up on the underside can eventually damage the components. Spraying under the car with a pressure washer or high-powered hose at the coin-operated wash can help to remove much of this.

Salt can also affect the interior, building up on carpets and corroding the metal mounting brackets that hold the seats in. Cleaning the floor completely will help prevent expensive damage.

When the car is clean, look for small scrapes or dings that could turn into rust if they're not touched up. There can also be hidden damage, especially since you might have hit potholes or curbs that were hidden by snow. "It's not a bad idea to get the vehicle inspected by a licensed mechanic," Spatafora says. "Have him inspect the components for damage and imperfections."

A lot has happened under the hood all winter, as well. Engine oil tends to get thicker in cold weather and thinner with heat, so oil companies blend different viscosities for optimum performance. Changing your oil in spring to a summer weight will remove dirty oil that's past its prime and replace it with the appropriate summer blend.

Extreme temperatures are hard on rubber parts, so have the technician check all of the hoses and belts to be sure they haven't cracked or softened.

Plastic headlights can oxidize and turn cloudy. Auto parts stores sell easy-to-use kits to polish them, which will improve your visibility at night.

Tips

- Whenever you're driving, listen for any unusual noises in your car, or changes in the way the brakes or steering feel. If you catch problems early, repairs usually cost less.
- If you use winter tires, switch to all-season or summer tires as soon as the weather turns warmer, to avoid premature wear on them.

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GT model shown

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CAR OF THE YEAR JAPAN 2012 2013 SINCE 1980

GT model shown

GS-SKY model shown

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†0% APR purchase financing available on new 2013 Mazda vehicles. 0% for up to 84 months available on 2013 Mazda6. Other terms available and vary by model. Based on a representative example using a finance price of $17,485 for 2013 Mazda3 GX (D4XS53AA00)/$25,115 for 2013 CX-5 GX (NVYXK63AA00)/$26,365 for 2014 Mazda6 GX (G4XL64AA00) at a rate of 0.99%/1.99%/3.99% APR, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term $620/$1,811/$3,897, bi-weekly payment is $99/$148/$166, total finance obligation is $18,105/$26,926/$30,262. Taxes are extra and required at the time of purchase. **Lease offers available on approved credit on 2013 Mazda3 GX (D4XS53AA00)/CX-5 GX (NVYXK63AA00)/2014 Mazda6 GX (G4XL64AA00). At 2.99%/4.99%/4.99% lease APR the monthly payment is $164/$279/$279 per month for 60/48/48 months with $0/$4,870/$4,425 down payment including freight & PDI. $600 PDI due at delivery for Mazda3. PPSA and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation equals $9,861/$17,681/$17,326. 20,000 km lease allowance per year, if exceeded, additional 8¢/km applies. 25,000 km leases available. Taxes extra and required at the time of purchase. *The advertised price of $16,365/$25,215/$26,465 for 2013 Mazda3 GX (D4XS53AA00)/2013 CX-5 GX (NVYXK63AA00)/2014 Mazda6 GX (G4XL64AA00) includes block heater, freight & PDI, plus a cash discount of $1,500/$0/$0. The selling price adjustment applies to the purchase and is deducted from the negotiated pre-tax price and cannot be combined with subsidized purchase financing or leasing rates. As shown, price for 2013 Mazda3 GS-SKY (D4SK63AA00)/2013 CX-5 GT (NXTK83AA00)/2014 Mazda6 GT (G4TL64AA00) is $21,665/$34,865/$34,165 including block heater, air tax, freight and PDI. Freight & PDI for Mazda3, Mazda6/CX-5 is $1,695/$1,895. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid March 1-April 1, 2013 while supplies last. Prices and rates subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details. ‡5.1 L/100 km (55 MPG) Highway/7.6 L/100 km (37 MPG) City - Based on ENERGUIDE Fuel Consumption Rating for the 2014 Mazda6 with automatic transmission. 5.7 L/100 km (50 MPG) Highway/7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) City - Based on ENERGUIDE Fuel Consumption Rating for the 2013 CX-5 with 6-speed manual transmission. 4.9 L/100 km (58 MPG) Highway/7.1 L/100 km (40 MPG) City - Based on ENERGUIDE Fuel Consumption Rating for the 2012 Mazda3 GS-SKY sedan with 6-speed automatic transmission. These estimates are based on Government of Canada approved criteria and testing methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary. MPG is listed in Imperial gallons.

Get facts about fuel ratings before you buy

Fuel Consumption Guide. These ratings can help you make a more informed decision, but they're not always accurate

Reducing the cost of driving — to our wallet and to the environment — requires factual information. Fuel consumption ratings can help consumers make informed choices. But are these ratings factual?

In Canada, vehicle manufacturers test their own vehicles using standardized testing and analytical procedures approved by the government to generate fuel-consumption data.

This data is published annually in Natural Resources Canada's Fuel Consumption Guide. The fuel consumption values can also be found on the EnerGuide Labels that are affixed to every new light-duty vehicle sold in Canada.

Since it is impossible to consistently duplicate on-road testing with so many variables, a controlled laboratory testing method is followed instead. This ensures that all vehicles are evaluated under identical conditions and that the results are consistent and repeatable across all manufacturers.

Estimated fuel-consumption ratings are derived from both a city and a highway test, and the values generated through this procedure allow fair and reliable comparisons of different vehicles.

The city test simulates a 12 km trip that includes 18 stops, while the highway test simulates a 16 km trip that does not include any stops.

The ratings reflect the results of the specific simulated tests. While the ratings are achievable under ideal conditions and when applying fuel-efficient driving techniques, the following factors can significantly affect the fuel consumption of a vehicle.

These include driving style and behaviour, vehicle acceleration, braking and driving speed, age and condition of the vehicle, traffic and road conditions and drive systems and powered accessories.

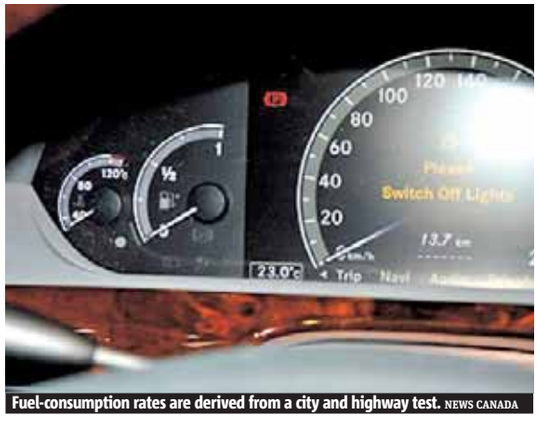
In addition, small variations in manufacturing can cause fuel consumption differences in the same make and model, and some vehicles don't attain optimal fuel consumption until they are "run in" for about 6,000 to 10,000 km.

The estimated ratings are a useful tool for comparing vehicles before you buy, but they do not accurately predict the fuel consumption you will get. Natural Resource Canada's Fuel Consumption Guide, along with additional information and tips, can be found online by visiting vehicles.gc.ca. **NEWS CANADA**

Buying tips

With so many new vehicle choices, how does anyone narrow down their buying decision? Natural Resources Canada points out that between vehicles in the same class, the differences in fuel consumption can be substantial.

- The most efficient mid-size vehicle for 2012 was the Nissan Leaf at a cost of $5,060 over 200,000 km.
- The most efficient minivan for 2012 was the Mazda5 at a cost of $17,430 over 200,000 km.
- The most efficient wagon for 2012 was the Toyota Prius at a cost of $9,660 over 200,000 km.
- Buying tips and a handy tool that compares estimated fuel consumption of various vehicle makes and models are available online at vehicles.gc.ca.



Fuel-consumption rates are derived from a city and highway test. NEWS CANADA

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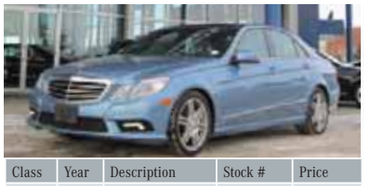
Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
C230	2009	4matic™, Black	P09-9475	$29,888

Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
C300	2012	4matic™, Black	P12-9766	$42,999

Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
C350	2009	4matic™, Grey	P09-9675	$35,999



Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
E350	2010	4matic™, Blue	P10-9808	$44,999

Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
E350	2010	4matic™, White	P10-9986	$48,999

Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
GLK350	2012	4matic™, White	P12-9587	$39,999

Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
GLK350	2010	4matic™, Red	P10-9638	$35,999

Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
GLK350	2010	4matic™, White	P10-9947	$29,999

Class	Year	Description	Stock #	Price
ML350	2010	4matic™, Silver	P10-9817	$42,999

David Morris Fine Cars, 17407-111 Avenue, 780-484-9000, davidmorrisfinecars.com Mercedes-Benz STAR DEALER AMVIC

© 2013 Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. *0.9% financing only available through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services on approved credit for a limited time. Available for 36 month finance on model year 2009-2011 Certified Mercedes-Benz (less than 140,000 km). Finance example based on a 2009 model: $25,000 at 0.9% per annum equals $704.12 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $348.39 for a total obligation of $25,348.39. Down payment may be required. **First, second and third months payments are waived for finance programs on model year 2009-2011 Certified Pre-Owned Mercedes-Benz models. The payment waivers are capped up to a total of $500/month including tax for a Mercedes-Benz model. Vehicle licence, insurance, registration and sales taxes are extra. Dealer may lease or finance for less. Offer may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. See your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for details or call the Mercedes-Benz Customer Relations Centre at 1-800-387-0100. Offers end March 31st, 2013.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
As of today, all the pieces of your jigsaw that failed to fit will at last fall into place. You will know who you are, what you want and that surely you will get it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You seem to feel guilty about something and with the Sun moving into the most sensitive area of your chart today, it could all get a bit much for you. Get a grip!

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Don't leave people guessing today. Tell them exactly what you mean. Over the next few weeks, you will find it easy to win friends and influence people. So, speak up and when necessary, speak loudly.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You can and you must pursue your own ambitions, whatever they might be. According to the planets, this is a make or break time as far as your reputation is concerned. Be positive and be ready to move up.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may find yourself called upon to help someone in need today and, of course, you will assist in any way you can. However, do not — repeat, not — lend them money because chances are you won't see it again.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you have fallen out with a friend or family member now is the time to kiss and make up. But make sure any apology you make sounds sincere or you could find yourself in deeper water than before.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your needs must come first. As the Sun moves into your opposite sign today so partners and colleagues will expect you to do everything for them. Put your foot down right from the start, on their toes if necessary!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't leave anything to chance: Stay on top of work and money matters and make sure you are the only one who can make things happen. If you let others make decisions for you, they may take your power.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is excitement in the air. You know that something wonderful is going to happen. And so it is, but don't be too disappointed if it is not quite as wonderful as you expected. It will get better as time goes on.

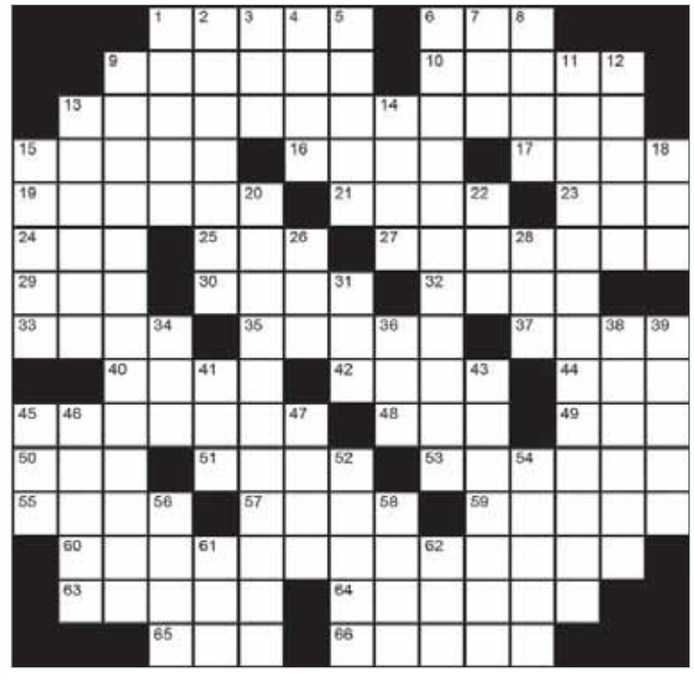
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There are days when all you want to do is watch the world go by from the safety of your armchair, and this is one of them. Not even a Capricorn can be a mover and shaker all the time.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your mind may be full of good ideas but how many of them will see the light of day? Too often in the past you have failed to follow up on your insights, but now you must. It's your turn to shine.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun may be leaving your sign but that does not mean the good times are ending. On the contrary, you will soon enjoy rewards of the efforts you made in recent weeks. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

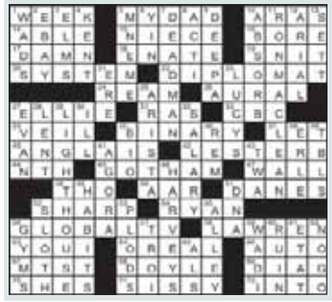
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Salma Hayek movie
6. Dance style
9. Shut
10. Wiseguy, Smart __ [var. sp.]
13. "Wondering Where the Lions Are" singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
15. Erased
16. Knight's heraldic wreath
17. Enjoy a novel
19. Namesakes of Mario's brother in Nintendo games
21. Lunchtime
23. "Law & Order: _ _ _"
24. Assn.
25. Lid's protectee
27. Like the stone of a foot file
29. Fitness system, __ Bo
30. Rosebud, for one
32. Prong
33. Word segment, for short
35. Grassland of South Africa
37. Empire of Peru
40. Ms. O'Grady of "Eight Is Enough"
42. Toward: French
44. Carson Daly's li'l old MTV show
45. Coming into sight: 2 wds.
48. Big Apple toy store, _ _ _ Schwarz
49. Vintage auto
50. Utah's capital [acronym]
51. Cup _' __ (Hot drink, informally)
53. Boorish beings in Jonathan Swift's book Gulliver's Travels
55. North Pole laugh: 2 wds.
57. Village People hit
59. Gets boring
60. One of Queen Elizabeth's royal residences: 2 wds.
63. Fresco-__ (Painting technique)
64. Permeates
65. "Ich bin __ Berliner."
66. Feats

Down
1. Thrown site of the Canadian Pacific Railway's 'Last Spike'
11. Croissants: 2 wds.
12. Card deck's Jack
13. __-__ and DVD
14. Hoof sound
15. Ink stains
18. Flop
20. Ian's folk duo partner: 2 wds.
22. Acr. for first-last names only people
26. Wide shoe width
28. 'Tortell' ender (Stuffed pasta)
31. Gladiator's 555
34. "Well, __-di-dah!"
36. Word's meaning, for short
38. Elvis flick, "King __" (1958)
39. At _ __ for words
41. Prefix with 'classical'
43. Dishwater bubbles, but just one here: 2 wds.
45. Informally seat theatre-goers
46. Works the land
47. Record deal dreamer's creation, commonly
52. Bitter
54. Detests
56. Irish film of 2006 about two songwriters
58. Pinnacle
61. 601 in ancient Rome
62. Homer's dad on "The Simpsons"
2. Western Canada mountains
3. 'Expert' suffix
4. Design style, Art __
5. Embellish
6. Fast food item for 'to go' customers: 2 wds.
7. Religious robe
8. Fear: French
9. 1885: British Columbia

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

1		8	3		6	2		7
		6	5		1	8		
	5						4	
			9		2			
2								8
			4		8			
	6						8	
		4	8		3	9		
7		1	2		5	4		3

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	3	5	4	7	1	8	9
7	4	1	9	3	8	5	6	2
8	9	5	6	1	2	4	3	7
2	5	6	4	6	1	9	7	3
1	3	6	7	9	5	8	2	4
4	7	9	2	8	3	6	1	5
5	6	7	8	2	4	3	9	1
9	1	2	3	5	6	7	4	8
3	8	4	1	7	9	2	5	6

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 1° MIN: -6°	MAX: 0° MIN: -2°	MAX: -6° MIN: -9°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

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West End
9935 170th St.
10429 178th St.
14220 Yellowhead Trail
14903 118th Ave. NW
17508 Stony Plain Rd.

North
9410 137th Ave. NW
9624 165th Ave.
10642 82nd Ave. NW
12714 137th Ave.

South
1916 99th St.
1934 38th Ave. NW
4515 Gateway Blvd.
4909 99th St. NW
5912 104th St.
8710 51st Ave.
9518 Ellerslie Rd. SW
10309 34th Ave.
13034 50th St.

Leduc
5311 Discovery Way
5906 50th St.
6109 45th St.

Morinville
9918 100th St.

St. Albert
St. Albert Centre
20 Muir Dr.

Sherwood Park
Sherwood Park Mall
973 Ordze Rd.
975 Broadmoor Blvd.

Spruce Grove
Westland Market Mall
96 Campsite Rd.

Fort Saskatchewan
8701 94th St.
9542 86th Ave.
9914 103rd St.

*Offer available until May 6, 2013, to residential customers who have not subscribed to TELUS TV or Internet in the past 90 days. Minimum system requirements apply. Final eligibility for the services will be determined by a TELUS representative at the point of installation. TELUS reserves the right to modify channel lineups and packaging. Prices may vary without notice. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer not available with TELUS Internet 6. HDTV input equipped television required to watch HD. Samsung HDTV offer available while quantities last and cannot be combined with promotional prices. TELUS reserves the right to substitute an equivalent or better product without notice. Manufacturer's suggested retail price of a 40" Samsung HDTV is $849. Cancellation fee for early termination of a service agreement will be $23/mo. for the Samsung HDTV and $10/mo. for the HD PVR and digital boxes multiplied by the number of months remaining in the term. Current rental rates apply at the end of the term. Rental equipment must be returned upon cancellation of service. TELUS, the TELUS logo, Optik, Optik TV and the future is friendly are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. Samsung and the Samsung logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Samsung Canada. © 2013 TELUS.